

Classis & You

Classis Toronto

www.classistoronto.org

Fall 2008

No, this isn't about school and "Classis" is not spelled wrong.

What is Classis?

Classis is a group of churches that belong to the same denomination that work together and hold each other accountable. Your congregation is a part of Classis Toronto of the Christian Reformed Church. Our mission:

The mission of Classis Toronto is to be, by the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, a growing community of churches called to witness to Jesus Christ and advance God's reign in the whole region in which we live by continuing to be reformational, by being accountable to each other while valuing the diversity of our expression and by fostering ministry in and among the local congregations.

We do this in primarily three ways:

1. Meeting together three times per year.

An elder and a minister (or a second elder) are sent by your congregation to a general meeting. At these meetings we take time to:

- ◆ Fellowship
- ◆ Learn from one another
- ◆ Discuss business
- ◆ Hear Reports
- ◆ Celebrate ministry
- ◆ Set budgets
- ◆ Make decisions
- ◆ Examine new Ministers and others entering ministry.
- ◆ And more!

This year we meet October 2/08
January 15/09 and May 14/09.

2. Doing ministry together that we can't do on our own.

At this time Classis Toronto has three ministries that we do together.

- ◆ Toronto Hospital Ministry
- ◆ University of Toronto Campus Ministry
- ◆ Logos Campus Ministry at York University.

These ministries use your financial and people resources to reach those in hospitals and two University Campuses that one congregation could never do on its own. For more information on these ministries see:

www.classistoronto.org/ministries.htm

3. Finding ways to support and encourage local ministry.

Classis Toronto works to connect resources to needs. The churches of Classis Toronto have, as members, many gifted and resourceful people. Committees and Teams have been formed to offer the gifts we have to a broad number of churches and ministries. Presently our teams are:

- ◆ Home Missions
- ◆ Race Relations
- ◆ Youth
- ◆ Safe Church
- ◆ Diaconal
- ◆ Candidacy

Committee/Team Happenings:

The Home Missions Committee hired a Ministry Specialist, Chris Pullenayegem, to work with our congregations. At this time Chris is working with a cluster of Churches from the west end of our Classis to do ministry in the Milton area. A second cluster of Churches from the east end of our Classis is looking at what it means to become missional churches with Chris.

The Safe Church Team is a group of people dedicated to making our churches a safe place for children, youth and volunteers. Their mandate includes setting up advisory panels for churches when someone has experienced abuse at the hands of a church leader. They also have put together a CD of resources for churches looking to set up a Safe Church policy.

The Logos Campus Ministry at York University is looking for permanent office space on or near the campus for the chaplain, Shiao Chong to have a ministry center.

The Race Relations Committee has just received a grant with Sustaining Pastoral Excellence for a peer learning group of about ten pastors who will be attending workshops and discussion groups about developing a multi-ethnic congregation.

This committee is also hosting an All Nations Heritage Sunday Celebration for all churches in Classis Toronto at ClearView CRC in Oakville on October 5. For more information see www.classistoronto.org/nations.htm

The Candidacy Committee (formerly known as the Student Fund Committee) is dedicated to recruiting and supporting people who feel called to Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.

The Youth Committee has developed a grant to help send youth pastors and leaders on Leadership Development training. For more information see: www.classistoronto.org/youth/index.html

The Diaconal Committee has just recently been formed (and it needs members!). It used to be a separate entity called the Classis Toronto Diaconal Conference, but is now a committee of Classis and an important part of our ministry amongst each other.

The Hospital Ministry Committee is reviewing the ministry as Chaplain, Nel DeBoer is retiring at the end of this year. The needs which began the ministry the 1960s have changed and prompted this review.

The Campus Ministry at the University of Toronto is celebrating 40 years of ministry to the academic community! A celebration is planned for November 8/08. Look for details in your bulletins later this fall.

YOU Can Be Involved Through:

- ◆ Becoming a member of a committee/team
- ◆ Getting involved with a ministry
- ◆ Prayer

For more information contact the
Ministry Coordinator: 416-528-2461 or
ministrycoordinator@classistoronto.org

The Churches of Classis Toronto:

Alliston	Friendship, Toronto
All Nations, Toronto	Georgetown
Bethel, Newmarket	Grace, Scarborough
Cochrane	Holland Marsh
ClearView, Oakville	Immanuel, Brampton
Covenant, Barrie	Maranatha, Woodbridge
CrossPoint, Brampton	Meadowvale, Mississauga
Heritage Fellowship of CrossPoint	Rehoboth Fellowship, Etobicoke
First, Barrie	Richmond Hill
First, Orillia	Springdale, Bradford
First, Toronto	Willowdale, Toronto